With little talent or expectations coming into the 2011 season, the panthers have a rebuilding year once again.

No one in Carolina expected a winning season nor a spot in the playoffs. Fans just wanted to see exciting football, which had been lacking previous years due to the coaching of John Fox, and see the development of star quarterback, Cam Newton. While Newton has played exceptional for a first year quarterback, he was held from his full potential because of the lockout. Newton missed 1,500 practice snaps and valuable time spent getting to know his offense.

Fans have received some exciting games, which is part of the problem. Every game that the Panthers have played in has come down to the wire, against teams like the Packers and Saints, and they have averaged 428 yards per game with a rookie quarterback.

Although the Panthers have a record of 1-4, the more disappointing aspect is that all of the games have been winnable. Every loss can be blamed on one crucial, messed up play, whether it was a missed call or a dropped catch. In addition, fans do not see Cam Newton as a rookie anymore; they expect him to start winning right away.

And then there’s Ron Rivera. He is on the brink of stardom but is having too many rookie growing pains and general problems on the team. Rivera needs to find a replacement for aging Steve Smith, who has been with the Panthers for 11 seasons.

Rivera is also having problems on the other side of the ball, his defense is missing two crucial players, John Beason and Thomas Davis. Most of the pressure from these two spots has fallen on Dan Connor and James Anderson. While their performance has been good, they are lacking the experience and leadership that Beason brings.

The defense has been playing well during the game but is lacking the drive to make plays in crucial situations, like in the red zone or on 3rd and short.

These heartbreaking losses have led fans to place blame on everyone in the organization, but this is the fans way of showing that they can see potential in the team. Fans are excited about the way this season has started, even with the four losses, but they are confused as to why the wins are still not coming.